

**Testimony of Christy Kovel, Director of Public Policy
Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter
Submitted to the Human Services Committee
Thursday March 10, 2022**

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and Distinguished Members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Christy Kovel and I am the Director of Public Policy for the Alzheimer's Association CT Chapter.

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the following bill:

H.B. No. 5339 (RAISED) AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY.

Currently there are 80,000 people in Connecticut living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia. The Alzheimer's Association estimates that this number will rise to 91,000 people by 2025. Connecticut is the 6th oldest state in the nation and age remains the biggest risk factor to developing Alzheimer's disease or other dementia.

More than 80% of the help provided to older adults in the United States comes from family members, friends, or other unpaid caregivers — and nearly half of families caring for an older adult are caring for someone with dementia.

Most caregivers (66%) live with the person with dementia in the community and many families having a home health aide assist with personal care and companionship is a service that many of our families prefer if they are able to do so.

The Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) enables older adults (65+) who are at risk of nursing home placement to remain in their home with services and supports versus in an institutional setting. Home and Community Bases services provide savings to the state by preventing premature facility placement while keeping the individual in their own home. In addition to income and asset eligibility requirements, applicants must demonstrate a need for assistance with such areas as bathing, dressing, eating, taking medications and toileting.

There are currently approximately 3,200 state-funded clients on the CHCPE Program with an additional 14,000 clients on the Medicaid funded section of the program. Approximately 38% of clients receiving services have Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

The Alzheimer's Association is in support of this legislation because an increase in the maximum allowable assets to \$45,000 (single) and \$65,000 (couple) will open home & community-based options to more low-income older adults who may be at-risk of nursing home placement.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide comment today.